

### Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club (Inc.) P.O. Box 1120, Dunedin.



The OTMC meets socially at 3 Young Street  
every Thursday - doors open at 7.30pm,  
programme begins at 8.00pm.

#### 1st April

No club night - Good Friday the next day.

#### 8th April

What were our OTMC predecessors doing in the late 1940s? We have another DVD made up of a collection of old movies taken at that time. This time there is a commentary, so we don't have to try and guess where they are tramping. The tramps covered are in the Rock Burn, Park Pass, Cow Saddle, over Alabaster Pass into the Pyke and Hollyford; then the Wilkin, Remarkables and Routeburn.

#### 15th April

Five Passes II: You've seen and heard the "anti-clockwise" group and their experiences - but what about the trials and tribulations of the "clockwise" group? Come and learn about the tree descent to "Shangri-la", nude bathing in the Olivine River, and see pictures of deformed feet like you've never seen before! Oh, and tramping.

#### 22nd April

We were impressed by John Hart's stunning photos from Patagonia; now be prepared to be impressed again by John's photos from the canyons of the U.S of A. He trekked in the Grand Canyon, Bryce and Lyon Canyons, plus Death Valley, the Buttes of Utah, and Capital

#### 29th April

BYO - As it was 5 weeks since the last one there should be lots of photos from your recent trips - the Easter tramp, Rees Valley, Kea Basin, etc.

Any ideas, and contact names in particular, are welcome for the Thursday evening activities. If you can help please contact Tony Timperley (phone 473 7257, email [tonytimps@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tonytimps@xtra.co.nz)) or Ralph Harvey (phone 453 4330, email [ralphh@ihug.co.nz](mailto:ralphh@ihug.co.nz))

Visit us on the Internet at:  
[www.otmc.co.nz](http://www.otmc.co.nz)



This will be my 8<sup>th</sup> issue of the OTMC Bulletin, which means that I have now been Editor for well over 6 months!

I am thoroughly enjoying the role and would like to express my gratitude to everyone who has helped make the job easier than I expected. Particular thanks go to the committee members who get their submissions in bang smack on time every month, and the regular contributors of interesting articles, trip reports and photographs.

I am also interested in hearing from any members lurking out there who have ideas about other things they would like to see included in the Bulletin. Please e-mail me your thoughts.

My own latest tramp was the recent Kakanui Peak day trip. Apart from wanting to do this trip because it sounded so fantastic, I wanted to be present on Roy Ward's last trip for a while. By the time this is published, Roy should be in the States, enjoying a new lifestyle and not due back for some time.

My involvement with OTMC began through day trips, all of which, without fail, have been fun, interesting and with excellent company. Roy has done a superb job for some years now and I am sure we all wish him all the very best in his new location.

In this issue, amongst others, we have 3 very different articles from the same weekend away in February. I hope you enjoy reading them all.

And next month we will have the 'clockwise' version of the 5 passes.

Adrienne Dearnley

# Membership

There are no new members to welcome this month.

*A wee Gear Hire grumble from Ralph. If you are dropping off gear, and neither Gene nor Ralph are about, please return the kit to another committee member rather than just dumping it in the gear hire room. Thanks*

## Routeburn Classic Race

Since this event's inception, OTMC, FMC & Southland TC have advocated that it should be held in the booked season. The argument is that having it in the off season ruins one of about 8-10 "shoulder" weekends i.e when the track isn't in Great Walk mode and isn't impassable. These weekends are highly valued by clubs and others who want the Routeburn experience without the Great Walk facilities and costs. This year, the race will be held on 24 April, the last weekend of the Great Walk season. Although the stated reason is because they've had snow when they've run it in May, I'd like to think that our advocacy has contributed to the change. Regardless of the reason, we've got the outcome we sought.

David Barnes

## Photography Competition

Time to submit your winning shots as entries close 30th April!

Submit by hard copy, DVD, CD or pen drive to Anne Burton. Drop them off on any Thursday Club night or to 139 Helensburgh Road.

The current plan is for Craig McKenzie to be judging this on the May 20th Club night.



# Trip Reports

## Hidden Lakes February 6/7 2010

The trip got off to an excellent start, with ten keen trampers, a prompt departure and a great weather forecast. We were in Te Anau around 10pm, and walked in to Brod Bay to set up camp well before midnight (though some stayed up much later using each other as human tripods to try and take photos of a spectacular moonrise).



Saturday dawned bright and clear, and we got off to an unhurried start heading North up the shoreline of the lake. A certain party leader and chief guide who shall remain nameless made sure that we had our boots wet (and more!) from sidling along the shore before we headed inland uphill through the bush. Time to find some hidden lakes! With no track, the bush was mostly easy going here, though a wall of fallen trees made for an interesting scramble at one point. Heading North and gently inland from the shore we unerringly hit the first of our lakes, L1, around 11am. L1 is one of the 6 larger lakes (which we imaginatively labelled L1 to L6 from GPS waypoints). The remaining 8 or so smaller lakes are mostly clustered together to the North of L1.

We dallied on the shores of L1 for a while, then headed East back out to

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

the coast of Lake Te Anau. Soon finding a suitable beach, we gratefully dumped our packs and set up camp. After lunch most of us set off, once again Northwards and gently inland through relatively easy bush, until we found our second lake, L2. From the Eastern edge of L2 we were able to pick up a short track connecting two coves in Lake Te Anau that are popular with boaties. We followed this track in each direction, South to East Cove, then North to Mussel Cove. Off this track we also found our third lake so far, coincidentally marked L3. From Mussel Cove we were tempted to carry on, about 2km and a 200m climb, to a lookout point. But with time running out, we decided to head back to camp. Arriving hot and sweaty in the 26 degree heat, the sun was still glorious in the clear blue sky, so the walk ended with a mass swim - very refreshing!

After the swim, some of the group were soon back in the water scouring the lake for a half dozen cans of a certain beverage which had slipped their chilly moorings and floated off. Five of the escapees were eventually recaptured and disposed of. Finally, dinner, a driftwood fire on the beach, and marshmallows!



A wonderful camp, the mosquitos and sandflies were the only blot, this was not a trip for sleeping under a fly.

Sunday was overcast and mild. One group chose to head back early to the van, the rest of us donned our daypacks and headed inland in search of more lakes. Navigation on this day was much more difficult, and the three GPS units between us were put to good use.

First stop, the cluster of little lakes to the North of L1. With the aid of GPS

*(Continued on page 6)*

we spiralled in to the largest in the group, at times pushing through tangles of saplings and scrub, or squelching through boot-sucking bog. From this lake we found a second in the group, then scrambled up to a slight lookout point to plan our next course. We decided to head inland West to L6, largest of all the hidden lakes. But after a slow kilometre we found ourselves much more Northerly at L4 instead. (In retrospect it is possible that some mug - ok, me - choose the wrong GPS waypoint to find?). So we headed South West, to L6 as originally intended, then had what seemed like a long scramble East back to the main shoreline and camp.

This day really gave us a feel for how easy it would be to become lost in dense bush. It also showed up the differences in GPS functionality, with the older unit (mine) nearly useless for much of the time. Make sure you have a unit with a modern high accuracy antenna and an electronic compass for this kind of work! Having hit camp later than expected, lunch was a quick affair, then it was packs on and retracing our steps from the first day, back out to Brod Bay, then on the highway of the main track out to the van, a bit late at around 4:45pm.

This was a great trip, and those looking for a different kind of challenge in a club trip should give it a try if it comes up on the card again. Many thanks to Antony and to all!

By Anthony Robins, for Anne, Chris, Jill, Sandra, Maria, Robert, Peter, Brent and Antony.

Check out Peter's excellent photo-documentary at <http://tinyurl.com/ye4tpcg>

## **Rustlers Ridge January 17 2010**

A good turnout of 12 trampers for the first tramp of the year. After making our way along the Pipeline track we headed up the Rustlers Ridge track to the top Swampy Summit. No views were to be had as the weather on the top was foul indeed, with driving drizzle and strong winds. After a quick lunch break we battled our way along the top to the comparative sanctuary

*(Continued on page 7)*

*(Continued from page 6)*

of the bush on the Leith Saddle track. From there it was a short distance back to the cars and home.

## **Mt. Charles January 24 2010**

The rain started falling as we left the clubrooms. The 6 of us were sure it would be all right on the top of Mt. Charles, how wrong we were. The climb up went well with some good views to be had of the surrounding countryside. As we got near the top a howling gale made its presence felt, coupled with horizontal rain. We only stayed on the top for a short time before we headed down to the lighthouse for lunch. And of course the rain and wind came too. At the light we huddled by a wall to seek shelter. The wind chill factor made lunchtime a very miserable affair. From the light we headed along the coast and back to the welcoming sanctuary of the cars and home.

Gavin McArthur for the intrepid 18.

## ***February 20/21 2010*** ***East Eglinton***

It was the least I had promised for the last 18 months to do a weekend trip, and I held up the car for 20 minutes or so at the airport. Having finally been picked up, we then attempted to catch up with the van, albeit within the legal speed limit. Anyway we met up with the 'others' at Te Anau DoC...I don't think they had waited too long. A quick filling out of the paper work, then off to Cascade Creek, our campsite.

Of the three parties we had the most leisurely trip planned so we didn't get away until 9 or so, after getting acquainted. We walked up the end of the Routeburn at a leisurely 'pace' or so it seemed. We were thankful when young Robert stopped for a rest to admire the view down the Hollyford (I think he was tired), then off to Key Summit non-stop. Another rest, obligatory photos then we were off on a DoC track (unmarked on maps) onto the Livingstone range. Along the track, up, down, through bush then into open

*(Continued from page 7)*

tussock. Our leader had arranged fine weather so we had fantastic views down the Greenstone, across to Lake Marion (a potential future tramp), and down the Eglinton Valley. After the track petered out we rested, ate more food then we were away.

Every time we went up, there was some more down, but more up. Lots of tarns, and spectacular fault lines. Time to look, take photos, chat and eat. Several stops later we arrived at our destination at around 4pm as Greg (the oldest) was getting tired, and sources of water ahead were thought to be scarce. We rested while Ann, and Antony who had some extra energy completed a reconnoiter for the next day. On their return our 'cook' Ann prepared our meal, fantastic, and we hit the sack around 9-9.30pm as it had cooled down a lot. I must remember to bring the down jacket next time!

The next morning we awoke to mist, no views, and limited forward visibility. Antony to the rescue with his compass. Our plan to come out via the Greenstone was thwarted, perhaps another time, and we set out due north. Quite eerie walking in the mist but Robert who knows how to work a GPS kept a check on Antony and early in the afternoon we emerged at Key Summit and wandered down to the vans to wait for the 'others'. The mist duly lifted, and we unfortunately missed the great views from the previous day...who cares, we had photos. Anyway we didn't lose anyone and nor did the 'others', who from all reports had rather interesting trips. Back in Dunedin by 9pm, after fuelling up at the fish and chip shop in Balclutha. An excellent weekend with great company.

Ron for Ann, Antony, Grace, Maria, Robert, and Greg.

## *U Pass*

Twenty eight years is a long time to wait for a second crack at a thwarted trip, and so I was pleased to finally be heading for U Pass in Fiordland, particularly with a good weather forecast. From the carpark, the track descends through the forest towards the Eglinton River. There's obviously a fair amount of pest control work going on (for mohua, I think) as there are lots of traplines. A sign warning about poison included advice that it was "deadly to dogs", which I thought was somewhat unnecessary deep in a



(Continued from page 8)

## National Park.

We crossed the Eglinton on a walkwire and then made our way to a sign where the track splits to provide access to the two valleys. We were tackling Mistake Creek first. The well-marked track climbs steadily, initially away from the stream before returning to cross it. This was the point that I'd turned back from on Bushcraft 82, as the river was high. There's been at least one fatality at this spot in the intervening years. When the vegetation started to thin out, we had our first view of Mt Ngati-mamaoe, an impressive rock pyramid.

Soon, we were out of the bush and negotiating flats sprinkled with boulders and scrub – not fast travel. A left turn took us into the major tributary of Mistake Creek and our first view of the infamous waterfall. A bit of boulder-hopping upstream brought us close to the base of the fall.

Moir describes two routes – one on the true right requiring “care and confidence”;

the other on the true left described as “a natural rock staircase [which] provides easy if highly improbable travel”. We chose the latter, although John & I found one move (assuming that we were on the route) to be more at the highly improbable end of the spectrum than easy. Thanks for the pack haul, Ross. With that out of the way, we progressed through more scrubby boulders – or boulder scrub – to the lip of the hanging valley above the falls.

This gave us our first look at the pass as well as a sighting of some cham-  
ois frolicking across some old snow at the head of the basin.

The ascent to the pass was a straightforward and direct haul of 200m. The pass itself is an impressive notch between two vertical walls. It is part of the Skelmorlie fault, which our eyes could follow to the north and to the south. The southern manifestation is Glade Pass on the far side of Hut Creek. This provides access to Glade House and thus a round trip linking with Dore Pass, but has a reputation for increasing difficulty caused by erosion. For us, the next phase was a sharp 500m descent down a rocky



*(Continued from page 9)*

gut. For me, a steep descent is a time-consuming thing, and I think I was half an hour behind my companions at the bottom. However, we'd planned to camp there to anyone. was limited of Hut Creek flats. We where a small a headwall, so the tents.



so it wasn't a problem The campsite choice by the fact that the bed was dry right across the were able to get water waterfall tumbled over that's where we pitched

Overnight rain had cleared by the time we were up and about. We knew we had a shorter day ahead, so took a quick stroll up into the upper basin before heading downstream in the dry bed. At the bottom of the flats a track with a well marked entrance by-passes a section where the stream drops sharply (and with water apparent) and leads to another flat. When the track at the bottom of the lower flat wasn't as obvious as the previous one had been, collectively and in most cases individually we should have had the wit to realise that the sensible thing was to keep looking. But the terrain was sort of OK, the weather was great and we had time up our sleeves. Subconsciously, we probably didn't want to spend longer than we had to feeding the sandflies by State Highway 94. So we bush bashed. In days gone by, I was an enthusiastic off track bush basher. These days I think of Kelvin Lloyd's definition in "45 Years of Antics" – "the bush does the bashing". We had, however, agreed that a major tributary would be the limit of this folly, as the main stream drops much more sharply from there and the risk of getting bluffed would be real.

Eventually we reached the side stream, where a lunch break – much needed after the morning's exertions – was taken. The track was then located and was easily followed down to the Eglinton flats. We splashed across two channels of Mistake Creek and then decided that the Eglinton was low enough to make the detour to the walkwire unnecessary. Five minutes later we were sitting by the road being photographed by tourists and avoiding sandflies, and were soon grateful for an early pickup.

*(Continued from page 10)*

David Barnes for John Kaiser, Ian Woodford, Ross Hunt & Peter Stevenson

## *Livingstone Range*

The campers at Cascade Creek camping ground in the Eglinton Valley must have thought we were mad. We turned up at 11.00 pm on Friday night and were away at 8.00 am the next morning. Our leader, Ann, called everyone to the van for a meeting, and then a gourmet muffin was produced with three candles and singing of “Happy Birthday” – it was my 39<sup>th</sup> birthday and I was humbled.

Five of us in great weather headed to the road and into the bush on the true left of Cascade Creek (by the roadbridge). The going was a bit rough with not much of a track keeping close to the river. We crossed the river for the first time by a late flowering southern rata tree, and then crossed as necessary to avoid holes and bluffs. A number of old concrete structures could be seen in the riverbed, which my dad said afterwards could be related to the huge camp that was there when the Milford Road was being built. This camp was nearly washed away by a huge flood. Eventually we found a track marked with ribbons and even a tricky steep section with ropes provided. This track was followed to a fork in the river, where we stopped for a break. We followed the side branch and eventually found a marked track following the ridge to the bushline. We could see where we needed to get onto the ridge to the Livingstone Range, but getting there was a bit tricky, as a steep gorge prevented us getting across the river. We eventually headed higher into scrub and after a bit of bush bashing got across the river where we had lunch.

After lunch we headed into the head of Cascade Creek towards the saddle. The water seemed to be running out so it was decided to head directly onto the Livingstone Range to some tarns. Up on the Range, the views were impressive of the way we had come. The tarns were a bit on the small side and after a rest (and snooze by some) we climbed higher to find some bigger tarns. Dave’s GPS came in handy and we found a big tarn and set up camp for the night. A short stroll to the edge of the Range and we could look directly into Lake Gunn. No worries, we thought, the worst was behind us, and we only had to stroll along the Range to Key Summit and back to the van the next day. How wrong we would be.

*(Continued from page 11)*

We woke in the morning to wind and low cloud. Better get a move on in case it gets worse. And it got worse. Visibility was decreasing all the time and we couldn't see very far in front of us to see the lie of the land. Dave plotted on his GPS a lay-line most due north so which was all we had to keep onto the line and we would be alright. Initially we kept to the line in the fog and dropped steeply off down to Lake Gunn so when it looked like it was getting away to the steep, we steered right. A check of the GPS showed that we



were veering off to the right but no worries, we would come right as long as we headed northish. In no time at all, with no visibility, it was steep on the left and right and then also in front of us. We needed to assess the situation. The GPS showed that we were walking in a circle. I pulled out my compass and was shocked to find that north was not in front of us but behind us. Where we all thought Lake Gunn was was in fact the Greenstone Valley. We had totally lost our bearings. We backtracked up the hill to where we had gone wrong and then the fog for a moment cleared and we could see the Ridge where we should be. Two of us headed directly to the Ridge and then the fog came in again. But with some calling, we got together again. We needed to stay together. We were back on track now but still we made sure we were heading north. Pity we had no views as they were supposed to be great up here. We passed many tarns but only saw them when we were right beside them. We were making good time now. We had arranged to meet the other groups by 4.00 pm at the Divide. We had a quick lunch stop by a large rock out of the wind. Eventually we spotted trees through the fog so we were not far from Key Summit. We picked up the well-worn track to Key Summit and then the Summit itself with signs and boardwalks and hoards of day-trippers. The cloud was lifting now and we got a glimpse of Lake Marion and then the Hollyford Valley. Then it was down the zig-zag track to the Divide. Lots of people en

*(Continued on page 14)*

# Trip list

## CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

**April 17/18**

**Rees Valley / Kea Basin [All]**

**Richard Forbes (453 1327)**

This trip is suitable for all grades, with several options available. The Rees Valley, at the head of Lake Wakatipu, forms part of the popular Rees/Dart circuit but is also well suited for weekend trips on its own. We will be camping at the road-end just before Muddy Creek on Friday night.

The most popular option on this trip will probably be the trip to Kea Basin, a hanging valley lying below Mt. Earnslaw and Leary Peak. This does involve crossing the Rees, so conditions need to be right, but the effort is well worth it. For the more energetic more expansive views are gained by climbing up the tussock slopes that lead to Esquilant Biv. Esquilant Biv itself is located at around 2200m so requires a fit group to reach in a weekend.

The other option is to tramp to Shelter Rock Hut, the first DoC hut on the Rees / Dart circuit. There are good views from this comfortable, well located hut.

The day trip option could consist of camping in the Rees, either near the Kea Basin Track, or maybe 25 Mile Hut (private property) and visiting both Kea Basin and 25 Mile Creek.

Trip list closes April 8. Topo50 Maps: CA10 (Lake Williamson - most of trip) & CB10 (Glenorchy - start only)

(Continued from page 12)

route especially past the junction to the Routeburn/Greenstone tracks. We were back at the van by 2.00 pm where one of the other groups was already waiting. Antony drove to the third group to see if they were out, which they were. On the way back to Te Anau, I looked up to the Livingstone Range from the road beside Lake Gunn and it was beautiful blue sky. Bugger, those views will have to wait for another trip.

The lessons learnt from this trip were great. A GPS can be a brilliant tool on the tops, but a compass can also be used to take a bearing through the fog. It is easy to lose your bearings and get disorientated in these conditions. Keep together as a group where you are stronger to make decisions. If all else fails, sit it out and the fog will eventually clear.

Many thanks to Ann for leading the trip, and to Dave (and Greg) for the driving.

Richard Forbes for Dave, Ralph, Gordon and Darryl.

### Committee Members 2010

President	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Vice President/Publicity	Greg Powell	454 4828
Secretary	Jill McAliece	455 6740
Treasurer	Ann Burton	476 2360
Chief Guide/Transport	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Membership Secretary	Jacqui Colbert	471 7339
Visitor Liaison	Richard Forbes	453 1327
Gear Hire/Clubrooms	Gene Dyett	455 7465
Daytrip Convenor	Roy Ward	473 9518
Website/Bushcraft Director	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Social Convenor	Tony Timperley	473 7257
Social Convenor/Gear Hire	Ralph Harvey	453 4330
SAR Committee Liaison	Marina Hanger	476 2013
(outside committee)		
Library/Publicity	Wolfgang Gerber	453 1155
Bulletin Editor	Adrienne Dearnley	455 5801
Conservation/Advocacy	David Barnes	454 4492
SAR Contact	Teresa Blondell	477 4987

Contributions (limit of 1000 words) are welcome for the xxxxxxxx Bulletin, deadline is 16/04/10, publication 29/04/10. You can submit material by email to "adearnley@actrix.co.nz"; or post handwritten/typed copy or a CD to Adrienne Dearnley, 60 Musselburgh Rise, Dunedin. Or phone me! Thanks.

# DAYTRIPS

**April 4**

*No Day trip as it's Easter!*

**April 11**

**Sea to Saddle Hill [E/M]**

**Alan Scurr (489 5538)**

Credit goes to Janet Barclay for suggesting this trip. Meet as usual at the clubrooms at 9:00am. Drive to Ocean View to park our cars, followed by a short walk over sandhills to dip our toes in the sea. Then up a small country road before cutting across farmland. Visit a historical house (in ruins). Up through bush on a track I may have to cut to the top of Saddle Hill (473 metres). Depending on the weather, lunch at a log home then down a different route back to our cars.

Trip cost \$5.00

**April 18**

**Circumnavigation of the Orokonui Fence [E]**

**Fieke Neuman (473-7535)**

The 9 km fence that encloses the Orokonui ecosanctuary was closed off in July 2007. Since then pests have been eradicated, a visitor centre has been built and birds have been brought to the sanctuary with more on their way. We will leave our cars at the visitor's centre, near the junction of Blueskin and Moponui Roads. There is one steep section at the northern end of the fence but in general the 3 to 4 hour walk is very easy as it follows the wide, gravelled perimeter track. There is plenty to see: great views, many birds (possibly including kereru, tui, bellbird, fantail, fernbird, rifleman, tomtit and wild kaka) plus fence posts named after benefactors.

*(Continued on page 16)*

*(Continued from page 15)*

Since the walk ends at the visitor centre, good coffee is an option for this Sunday walk. Also possible, provided we are ready to do it by 3.30pm, is freedom walking inside the fence. This will cost \$15 or \$7.50 for Orokonui members. The gates and café close at 4.30pm.

Website: [www.oroconui.org.nz](http://www.oroconui.org.nz)

Trip Cost: \$6

**April 25**  
**Carey's Creek – Wright Road [M]**  
**Bronwen Strang (473 1610)**

As usual we will meet at 9am at the Clubrooms (after the Anzac Dawn service anyone?) and travel to Double Hill in the Silver Peaks. Then we will follow down Careys Creek – gravity feed - past Black Gully Dam, the turn-offs to Honey Comb and Rongomai Ridges and on eventually to Evansdale Glen. Hopefully blackberries may still abound! We hope to bush-bash a little up to a forestry track which will bring us out onto Wright Rd (recce still to be done). If however there is no way up, we'll just walk a little further, travel on Highway 1 for 200 metres and head up Jones Rd. This leads into Wright Rd (only for bikers, horses and walkers) which meanders very pleasantly up the ridge overlooking Blueskin Bay and back to Double Hill. It is certainly not technical, but it is long - worth it for the view on the return journey.

Trip cost \$6

